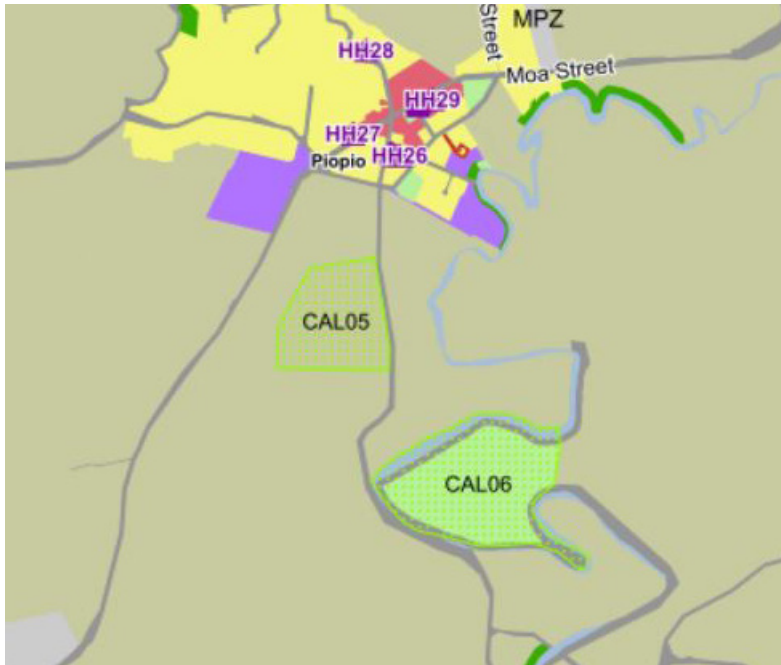


CULTURAL ALERT LAYER

This colour and pattern identifies the Cultural Alert Layer on the Planning Maps



Some sites have particular significance to Māori. They are places and features that are of historical, cultural and/or spiritual importance and carry deep levels of meaning and association for mana whenua. The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) requires Council to recognise and provide for the relationship Māori and their culture and traditions have with their ancestral lands, water, sites, wāhi tapu, and other taonga, as a matter of national importance.

The new plan identifies 27 sites in the cultural alert layer.

These sites have the status of a site or area of significance to Māori, but because many have residential properties on them or are on reserves, mana whenua have signalled the need to balance the protection of these lawfully established activities with the requirement to avoid or heavily restrict development associated with sites or areas of significance to Māori.

Just because you have the cultural alert layer on your property, it does not mean you need a resource consent to undertake activities within that area. The provisions of the layer are only triggered if another rule in the new plan means you need a resource consent.

What is the Cultural Alert Layer?

- The cultural alert layer is different from the sites and area of significance to Māori ([see here](#)). The layer contains a range of sites identified by kaumātua representatives from each of the Maniapoto Māori Trust Board regional management committees
- Some sites are the location of battles, some are places of long-term occupation, some are associated with important tribal histories and narratives, and some are urupā
- There is no cultural alert layer in the current district plan

My property is recommended to be in a cultural alert layer - how will this impact how I use it?

- The provisions of the layer are only triggered if another rule in the new plan means you need a resource consent. If you want to undertake a new activity and it does not need a resource consent, then there is nothing further to consider. You can carry on using your property as you currently are
- However, if you propose to undertake a new activity that does require a resource consent, it triggers the need for an assessment of the impact of the activity on the cultural heritage values of the site

- For example, a new building in a hazard area or a rural landowner deciding to excavate a new farm quarry might trigger a need for a consent. As part of that consent, Council will ask for a cultural impact assessment
- Over the lifetime of the new plan, Council plans to undertake cultural impact assessments for some sites and these assessments may be used by applicants who need them as part of their resource consent

In summary

- There is only one rule which is triggered if you need a resource consent. The rule requires a cultural impact assessment as part of your consent application. Otherwise, you can keep on doing what you are already lawfully doing on your property
- If you disagree with the listing on your property please contact us as soon as possible. You can also make a formal submission to the new district plan, but because the rules will become live as soon as the new plan is notified, it is very important to contact us quickly

Please note this factsheet is a summary and does not include the full set of rules. You can read the full set of rules [here](#)